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Abu 'Ubaidah bin Al-Jarrah

The Nation's Trustworthy Man

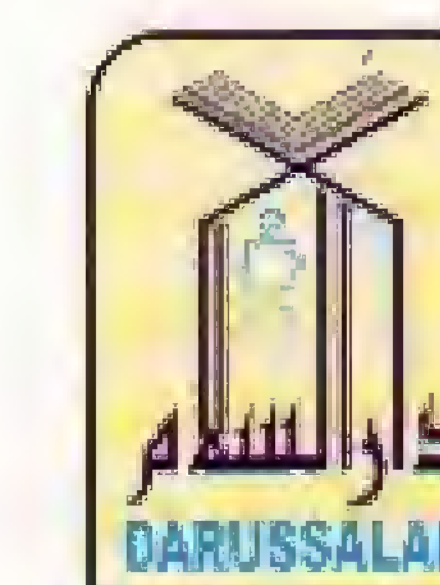
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**In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful**

"Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allâh; of them some have fulfilled their obligations and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed (their determination) in the least." (33:23)

Publishers Note

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad ﷺ, his family and his Companions.

Darussalam is pleased to present this valuable series, '*The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions*', to the Muslim youth. The purpose of these books is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest heroes of Islam, the Prophet's Companions. Also, we wish to increase the enthusiasm of the Muslim youth for following and adhering to their religion. In this way these books achieve two very important tasks: educating our children and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

The story you are about to read, '*Abu 'Ubaidah bin Al-Jarrah – The Nation's Trustworthy Man*', discusses the life of one of the greatest Companions of the Prophet ﷺ, Abu 'Ubaidah ؓ. He was one of the ten people whom the Prophet ﷺ publicly promised their acceptance into Paradise.

The Prophet ﷺ also referred to him as the 'The trustworthy man of this *Ummah*.'

We hope that these books are beneficial to our Muslim youth, as they are the future of Islam. We at **Darussalam** realize the importance of good Islamic literature for Muslim children, especially in the West where non-Islamic influences are so strong. For this reason, we feel that the availability of this series will be a valuable aid in instilling a genuine love for Islam in our children. We would like to thank the author, Mr. Abdul Basit Ahmad, the editor, Mr. Aqeel Walker, and Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sapra for their diligent work in preparing this series. As Allâh says:

"Is there any reward for good other than good?" (55:60)

And our final invocation is that all praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager

Foreword

Few men sacrifice all they have, even their souls for the sake of their faith. As they struggle for the support of their religion, they look at anyone who tries to prevent them from their way as an enemy, even if that person is a father or a brother.

Islamic history contains many examples of men who believed in Islam and devoted all their resources and even their souls for the support of the Word of Allâh. However, history gives us only one example of a man who killed his father in self-defense when he tried to attack him for following the religion of Islam. That man was our hero Abu 'Ubaidah bin Al-Jarrah ؓ.

He was a man of a noble character and deep faith. As soon as he heard about Islam, he was aware how much it was close to his heart and morals. Hence, he immediately embraced Islam and adopted it as a style of life. He was the eighth person to accept the Message of Islam. All his sacrifices for the sake of Islam were only for the support of the faith he believed in and not for promised dignity or

power. Therefore, he rejected to hold the post of a Caliph when Abu Bakr ﷺ nominated him for the position. Even when he was offered by 'Umar bin Al-Khattab ﷺ to lead an easy life while he was the governor of Syria. He refused any distinction over other Muslims. He was really a trustworthy man and all Muslim generations should follow his example.

So, let us read together about the man who abandoned all pleasures of life and sacrificed all he had for the service of Islam.

Abdul Basit Ahmad



Introduction

Arabs before the rise of Islam

The Arab society in the Arabian Peninsula and surrounding areas mainly consisted of tribes and clans. Some of them lived in towns while most of them followed their flocks everywhere in the desert in search of food and water. These tribes were usually involved in wars amongst each other. Every tribe was invading and invaded by other tribes.

The gloom that loomed over the Arabian Peninsula and the world in general before the rise of Islam killed nearly every virtue in the minds and hearts of human beings at that time. Human rights, for example, were not given any value. Slavery, burying girls alive and injustices were dominating the societies of the city and desert alike. Youth and old were spending their time in grazing animals or practicing trade during the daytime and seeking trivial pleasures during the night. The guidance brought by previous religions was absent from the life of the people. There was no central government; rather, every tribe had its own chief and customs in spite of the fact that some common laws were prevailing in the

Islam. He began asking visitors of Makkah to provide him protection to be able to proclaim the Word of Allâh. A group of visitors from a town called Yathrib believed in the message of Islam and pledged to provide the needed protection.

The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions migrated to Yathrib (Al-Madinah). From there, they could establish their Islamic State and propagate the message to the entire world.

The Values and morals the Prophet ﷺ called to the values and Morals

The first thing the Prophet ﷺ called people to adopt was to worship One Allâh. He told people that the stones they were worshipping were just stones made by them and not deserve to be worshipped. These stones were not the real creators of this vast universe. They could not bring their worshippers any good or cause them any harm. The Prophet ﷺ urged people to stop burying their daughters alive. These little girls were given the right by Allâh to live and no one should deprive them of this sacred right. He also urged them to be just to their slaves and not to be hard on them. He invited the various tribes of Arabia to stop invading each other and to unite their efforts

under the banner of Islam to become a real nation. He also preached against all vices and evils that were spreading amongst the people.

Followers of Islam

In the beginning of the call, most of those who accepted Islam were weak people and slaves. They found justice and truth in the principles preached by the Prophet ﷺ. Although some of the early believers held good positions in their society, they also received their share of oppression and torture. These followers were worshipping Allâh secretly. They faced the challenge with courage and steadfastness. All means to make them abandon their faith were of no avail. The torture they received at the hands of the pagans did not succeed in making them even say one word against their faith. Some of them were even killed under torture.

Attempts of the Quraish to stop the Call

The chiefs of the Quraish were furious to see Islam spread among people. In the beginning, they tried their best to make the followers of Islam recant. When they could not force the believers to give up their faith, they began accusing the

that worshipping these idols reduced the value of reason down to the level of animals.

Islam introduced to Abu 'Ubaidah

Abu 'Ubaidah was a close friend of Abu Bakr ؓ, who was the first man to believe in Islam. As soon as Abu Bakr ؓ explained to him the values and faith the Prophet ﷺ was preaching, he asked his friend to arrange a meeting with the Prophet ﷺ to hear from him directly.

Upon seeing the Prophet ﷺ and hearing the Qur'ân, Abu 'Ubaidah realized that this man was not the type of person the pagans claimed him to be. He had heard them saying that Muhammad was an enchanted man, a lunatic or a poet. They tried their best to convince others that the words the Muhammad was uttering were inspired by underworld spirits. However, they could never reach a clear explanation of the case because they were under the veil of gloom that controlled their minds and souls.

In spite of all the troubles and pressures he foresaw to befall him, Abu 'Ubaidah embraced Islam and kept side by side with the

Prophet ﷺ during this difficult period in the history of Islam. He liked the Prophet ﷺ and the new religion more than he liked himself, his family and the whole world.

Endurance

As Islam was growing inside Makkah with difficulty, the new Muslims were day after day facing more oppression and harassment to make them recant. Abu 'Ubaidah had his share of agonies that made him more steadfast and more persevering. He saw how much the Prophet ﷺ was suffering in the process of calling the Makkans to Islam.

When all ways had failed to defame Islam and the Prophet ﷺ, the pagans started a new method of physical torture against weak Muslims. All the Muslims, including Abu 'Ubaidah ؓ accepted the challenge and kept patient in spite of all agonies they faced.

Migration to Abyssinia

However, the Muslims felt that they could not continue their message in such a gloomy environment and under such oppression. Hence, they asked the Prophet ﷺ to find a way

with him.

The said pledge would provide protection for the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions if they migrated to Al-Madinah. Hence, the Prophet ﷺ commanded his Companions to migrate to that town.

Muslims' Reunion

Upon receiving news that the Prophet ﷺ and the other Muslims escaped the Quraish and migrated to Al-Madinah, Abu 'Ubaidah and his migrant companions left Abyssinia to join their fellow Muslims in the new Islamic State.

The migrants from Abyssinia were met with warm welcome. The people of Al-Madinah provided them with all means of livelihood and took them as brothers in Islam.

This reunion gave Abu 'Ubaidah a chance to share in building the new Islamic State and to exert his best efforts to make it strong and lasting.

He shared with the other Muslims in building the first mosque of Islam and worked hard to foster the faithful relations among brother Muslims.

The Real Test

The Muslims settled in Al-Madinah under the protection of the *Ansar* (supporters). But the Quraish forced and threatened the polytheists of Al-Madinah to provide help to them against Muslims. Upon this Allâh allowed the Muslims to fight the Quraish in self-defense.

The First battle against the Idolaters

The Muslims began patrolling outside Al-Madinah for security purposes. They received the news of a Quraish caravan nearby. They went towards it to check it. Abu Sufyan, the leader of the caravan, got the news of Muslims coming towards them, in fear of their attack, he changed his direction and managed to escape the Muslims. At the same time, he sent a warning message to the Quraish that their trade caravan was in danger.

The Quraish chiefs were furious to hear such news. They collected an army of about one thousand men armed to their teeth and marched toward Al-Madinah to rescue the caravan. On their way to Al-Madinah they received news that the caravan escaped the

The Trustworthy

Abu 'Ubaidah was a man of good character and morals. The Prophet ﷺ loved him very much. No one of the followers of the Prophet ﷺ could claim to be as trustworthy in the eyes of the Prophet ﷺ as Abu 'Ubaidah was.

The trusted Envoy

A delegation from Najran came to Al-Madinah to negotiate an agreement with the Prophet ﷺ. They agreed with the Prophet ﷺ to provide them protection for *Jizyah* (a sum of money). After concluding the treaty, They asked the Prophet ﷺ to send one of his Companions to their land to collect the *Jizyah*. They told the Prophet ﷺ that such a man should be trustworthy to the utmost. The Prophet ﷺ told them that he would send 'a truly trustworthy man with them.' All those present were keen to know who was that man whom the Prophet ﷺ meant. It was a great honour for every one of them to be that man.

The next day, many of the Prophet's followers were present in the mosque to perform *Zuhr* (noon prayer). Everyone was eager to know the man whom the Prophet ﷺ

considered as the trustworthy. Many of the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ were hoping to have that honour. They listened carefully to the Prophet ﷺ when he called Abu 'Ubaidah ﷺ to assume that huge responsibility. The Prophet ﷺ held Abu 'Ubaidah's hand and said:

"Every *Ummah* has a trustworthy man; Abu 'Ubaidah ﷺ is the trustworthy man of this *Ummah*."

Sublime Objectives

Abu 'Ubaidah ﷺ was the best example of trust and honesty to the last moment of his life. He was taught by the Prophet ﷺ that nothing in this life is equal to purity of soul and body and that nothing in this life is equal to the promised reward on the Day of Judgment for those who keep honest and trustworthy.



Companions of the Prophet ﷺ. He ﷺ himself commended him as the nation's trustworthy of the Muslim *Ummah*, and even he foretold that Abu 'Ubaidah ﷺ would be one of those who would be accepted in Paradise. He was the fighter who spent all his life supporting the message of Islam even under the worst conditions.

'Umar bin Al-Khattab ﷺ admired Abu 'Ubaidah ﷺ so much so that he wished to have thousands like him. 'Amr bin Al-'Aas ﷺ said:

"There are three men from the Quraish, most notable, best in morals and most bashful. They never lie or deny others. They are Abu Bakr , 'Uthman bin 'Affan and Abu 'Ubaidah bin Al-Jarrah ﷺ."



The End of the Journey

As Abu 'Ubaidah ﷺ and his soldiers were marching through Syria and surrounding lands, they were inflicted with plague. 'Umar bin Al- Khattab ﷺ felt sad for Abu 'Ubaidah ﷺ and requested him to come back to Al-Madinah immediately. However, Abu 'Ubaidah ﷺ refused to return to Al-Madinah and told the messenger that he would never escape from the act of Allâh.

He wrote a letter to 'Umar ﷺ saying:

"O Commander of the believers, I know that you need me. However, I am with some Muslim soldiers whom I do not like to leave alone. So, I would like to ask you to leave me with my soldiers.

"Umar ﷺ received the letter and cried much for losing such a great man.

Abu 'Ubaidah ﷺ became very sick and bedridden. He said to those around him:

"Pass my greetings to the Commander of the believers and tell him that I have fulfilled all my obligations."

Some days later, Abu 'Ubaidah ﷺ passed